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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ADDIS ABABA 004072

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

DEPARTMENT FOR AF/FO, AF/E, AF/C, AF/RSA.  
LONDON AND PARIS FOR AFRICA WATCHERS.

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [KPKO](#) [MOPS](#) [EAID](#) [CG](#) [AF](#) [UNION](#)

SUBJECT: AU CONSIDERING FOUR MILITARY OPTIONS FOR DRC

REF: ADDIS ABABA 922 (NOTAL)

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED. PLEASE TREAT ACCORDINGLY.

1. (SBU) Summary: Following the return of its reconnaissance mission to the Great Lakes, the African Union (AU) is considering four military options to support forcible disarmament of ex-FAR and Interahamwe elements in the DRC. The AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) is scheduled to meet in mid-to-late December to decide upon a course of action. The AU emphasizes that any approach will require close coordination with MONUC and substantial financial and logistical support from AU partners. End summary.

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RECON TEAM RECOMMENDS FOUR OPTIONS  
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2. (SBU) AU Desk Officer for the Great Lakes Boubacar Biro Diallo told Poloff on December 9 that the reconnaissance team mandated by the PSC to investigate options and requirements for forcible disarmament of the ex-FAR and Interahamwe in the DRC will recommend four options to AU leadership:

-- Option 1: Reinforce the Congolese armed forces (FARDC) by providing equipment and other necessary support. Diallo noted that the AU believes the FARDC is well-trained but lacks the capability to effect forcible disarmament without additional support.

-- Option 2: Deploy 2,000 troops for a joint action with the FARDC, dividing areas of responsibility. Diallo commented that there is not yet a decision on whether those 2,000 troops would come from an African lead nation or a combined AU member state contribution.

-- Option 3: Call for FARDC support of an AU-led action with a preponderance of non-Congolese African troops. Diallo said that there has also been no decision on the composition of an AU-led force.

-- Option 4: Deploy an all-AU force without MONUC or FARDC military support.

3. (SBU) Diallo, who led the mission for the AU, stated his belief that the AU PSC will authorize one of the troop deployment options. (Note: According to AU officials, South Africa led the member state contingent on the reconnaissance mission. Angola, Ethiopia and Nigeria also participated. End note).

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PARTNER SUPPORT WILL BE SOUGHT  
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4. (SBU) Diallo said that the reconnaissance team will brief Peace and Security Commissioner Amb. Djinnit on its findings December 18. The AU plans to formally brief key partners, including the U.S., before a mid-to-late December PSC meeting to decide upon AU action.

5. (SBU) The AU will require MONUC cooperation, including information-sharing, as well as substantial financial and logistical support from partners to pursue any of the recommended options, Diallo noted.

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COMMENT  
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6. (SBU) The AU and many of its major troop contributing countries are stretched incredibly thin with AMIS in Darfur. EC Delegation representatives in Addis Ababa have stated that only 30 million euros of the African Peace Facility remains, and that current thinking sees that amount divided evenly to support AU action in the DRC and Somalia.

7. (SBU) Note: The EC is already considering a proposal to fund staffing of the AU's office in Jowhar, Somalia.

8. (SBU) Given these constraints, the AU can be expected to

lean heavily on additional partners to pursue forcible disarmament in the DRC. The AU appears to have moved beyond the logic of "keeping up the pressure" gauged at prompting more effective MONUC action and voluntary disarmaments (Reftel) to instead seriously consider a more proactive role.

HUDDLESTON